

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was previously filed on July 15, 2003 to further prosecute this application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection of Claims 1-4:

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,397,189 to Minogue.

Claims 1-4 have been cancelled. New claims 17-20 are presented. These new claims have been prepared to distinguish physically over Minogue under Section 102.

In the first full paragraph on page 6 of the present specification (beginning with the second line), applicant discloses **a plurality of non-standard function keys 135 are located to the up most edge of the base 131. The non-standard function keys 135 can be user's macro keys, one-click network keys, switch keys of radio communication... to replace a serial of complicated inputs by a single click.** In contrast, Minogue **discloses an ergonomic keyboard without non-standard function keys that perform the function as in what applicant discloses in his specification.** Thus, the claims pending herein clearly distinguish over Minogue under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 5-16

Claims 5-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Minogue in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,212,066 to Fetterman.

Claims 5-16 have been cancelled and the claims now pending herein are believed to recite a structure having physical distinctions that preclude unobvious under §103.

Specifically, a careful reading of the '066 patent, shows that Fetterman **does not disclose function key rows 306, which are used to reduce the number of keystrokes during typing operation.** The function key row 306 disclosed in Fetterman is not equivalent to applicant's non-standard function keys 135. Fetterman (in column 5, line 62 to column 6, line 12) mentions the function key row 306 to clarify the location and relation of latches 302 to the keys.

In fact, **the function key row 306 of Fetterman is equivalent to row R0 of applicant, and not the non-standard function keys 135.** These function keys are practically designed for the use along with a notebook keyboard. The other usage for such function keys is having a user couple one of two FN (Function) keys, which are near the spacebar, along with individual function key 135 of Fetterman & R0 of applicant, to perform a task.

The non-standard function 135 has the characteristic of what is commonly known as a "hot key" of today; when 135 is pressed, an action takes place. The non-stand function 135 also is grouped and located away from the keys.

Therefore, Minogue in view of Fetterman fail to disclose the features of the presently claimed invention. These references also does not contain any suggestion (express or implied) that they be combined, or that they be combined in the manner suggested by the examiner.

Serial No.: 09/973,910
Art Unit: 2835

Attorney's Docket No.: ACR0051-US
Page 8

For the reasons given above, the applicant respectfully submits that the claims are distinct and unobvious over the cited prior art. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this case. Should the examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative.

SHAW PITTMAN LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703/770-7900

Date: July 16, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

CHU-CHIA TSAL

By:


Michael D. Bednarek
Registration No. 32,329

MDB/LDE/ggb

Document #: 1243567 v.1

BEST AVAILABLE COPY